

THE WEATHER
Fair tonight with freezing temperatures; Wednesday fair with slowly rising temperatures; gentle winds.
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR
8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5
27 29 31 33 35 37 39 41 43

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THROUGH-ROUTING LAW SUGGESTED TO END TRANSIT ROWS

Plan Would Force P. R. T. to Operate City Lines Under State Approved Rates

SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS ON "L" AND ALL NEW LINES

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

The entire transit situation is so far from satisfactory that the operation of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. is being considered as well as surface lines, can be solved without unnecessary delay.

All required is that a bill be introduced and passed at once by the Legislature giving the Public Service Commission the authority to compel the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. to through-route its Market street subway and all other lines over the Frankford elevated and to establish joint rates for such service.

This action should have been taken long ago. It would have solved the problem that much sooner.

Passage of such a measure would assure the operation of surface lines which may be operated in close connection with the P. R. T. system.

Under the act of June, 1915, the city has the power to build, own and lease street railway tracks on the surface.

It is suggested that the city should build an extension of existing rapid transit tracks with its own money to accommodate the Sears, Roebuck plant, about which there has been a lot of discussion.

With a through-routing bill, as described, the Public Service Commission would have the authority to compel the Mitten management to operate its surface cars over city-owned tracks to the Sears-Roebuck establishment.

There would be, necessarily, joint rates established for such joint service. This through-routing bill is no new thing.

Cure Prepared Six Years Ago
It is talked of and finally prepared six years ago. It appears in the annual report of the Department of City Transit for 1915.

The Public Service Commission under state law has the power to compel through service and joint rates on city transit lines and lines owned by the P. R. T. Co.

Such a law not only would compel the Rapid Transit Co. to work hand in hand with the city, instead of dickering, dealing and side-stepping, but it would enable the city to construct other subways and elevated railways with the assurance that the P. R. T. would be required to operate over these routes upon rates and conditions laid down by the commission.

It is impossible for any tribunal to arrive at a fair rate of return to the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. until a survey of values of the property of the company has been made.

As long ago as June, 1920, the engineers and technical representatives of the company declared a survey of the property values and would be completed in a few months.

It was being conducted to demonstrate that the valuation of the company's property was not excessive, or more than five cents, or a zoning system, or some scheme to help out the corporation.

It was given out by officials that the survey would be completed in September last, or by November at the latest. To represent the city a traction expert engineer was engaged at a large salary to co-operate with Mr. Mitten's men.

Has that survey been completed? It has not.

It is months overdue now, and it will probably be a year before it will be completed. I am really informed that only the real estate valuation has been made up to the present time.

Goel of Five-Cent Fare Dead
Thomas E. Mitten from the very start has been in favor of a five-cent fare. In magazine articles, in public interviews, in private talks, he proclaimed that Philadelphia was operating with a nickel fare and what it could do to get rid of it.

On a memorable visit to Philadelphia last year Mayor John F. Haylan, of New York, took occasion to extol Mr. Mitten as the unswerving champion of the five-cent fare. It was a compliment, but it was not a compliment to the city.

It would be interesting to know what Mayor Haylan would have said about the seven-cent fare that Mr. Mitten advocates so strenuously today.

If the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. is to be relieved in some way of the tremendous drain imposed on it by the underlying companies, it could well afford to charge a five-cent fare.

But no transit official has ever offered to join with the city in carrying the case of the underlying companies before some tribunal with power to act.

Why is this? The only reason advanced for failure to force the issue is the question of the validity of contract.

Remedy Is Simple
But where does the sacredness of the contract come in when one considers how the city's contract for a five-cent fare was made a scrap of paper?

And anyhow, why should Mr. Mitten, as president of the traction company, hesitate to tackle this question and carry it before the courts or the Public Service Commission?

Why not settle the question once for all, and after it is decided, then every body knows just where they stand.

There are a number of other things that enter into the question of increased fares.

In an attempt to reduce expenses the skip-stop was introduced. It was stated subsequently that these skip-stops saved the company from \$500,000 to \$750,000 a year.

A number of lines were re-routed. In some instances trolley tracks were torn up. What with this and the skip-stops, hundreds of thousands of citizens have been suffered, and whole communities have been put to trouble and inconvenience.

Since the four-for-a-quarter ticket scheme, the traction company has stored these privileges, except in a few cases where it was ordered to eliminate skip-stops.

With a through-routing law and the stoppage of the drain that goes to the underlying companies, there wouldn't be anything to the Philadelphia Rapid Transit proposition to fight over.

Asleep 3 Years, Awakes.
Yawns, Back to Sleep

Fort Smith, Ark., March 29.—(By A. P.)—James A. Ebelinger, fifty-four, who has been asleep for nearly three years, awoke at 8:30 o'clock yesterday in the county hospital here, yawning, and then went back to sleep, according to the nurse attending him. He did not speak, she said, but he was awake.

Ebelinger entered the hospital in 1914, a sufferer from pneumonia, physicians say. In August, 1918, he fell into the sleep which was broken for the first time yesterday. He has been fed through a tube since his lengthy sleep started, physicians say, and has not lost weight. Last night there was no indication that his brief awakening would soon be repeated, and physicians have declared themselves powerless to break the slumber.

**Court Dismisses
Kurtz Love Suit**

Pottsville Judge Declares Charge of Alienation Is Unproved

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger

Pottsville, Pa., March 29.—Judge Berger today dismissed the suit for \$10,000 damages brought by Mrs. Michael Kurtz, of Pottsville, City, against Mrs. Margaret Stankiewicz, a neighbor, for alleged alienation of the affections of the plaintiff's husband.

Judge Berger said he was not sure that Mrs. Stankiewicz "pursued" Michael Kurtz, the husband of the plaintiff, and pursued him with an improper purpose in view, but the case was not legally proven.

Judge Berger pointed out that he was compelled under the law to refuse to allow Mrs. Kurtz to testify as to the loss of affection of her husband, and also the loss of society, aid and comfort, due to the alleged "ramping" of Mrs. Stankiewicz. Then an attempt was made to prove this by other witnesses, but the testimony was insufficient to establish a case.

The court stated, however, that certain phases of the case would be taken up by the entire Schuylkill bench and further proceedings might be allowed.

Judge's Words Sting Defendant
Mrs. Stankiewicz's face brightened when the words of Judge Berger indicated he would not allow the case to go to the jury, but the cloud which previously hung over her pretty features deepened when Judge Berger said, "I had no doubt that she had pursued Kurtz and had a purpose in the pursuit," which the judge defined with words.

"Had it been proved that the letter received by Kurtz concerning the date fixed for the meeting at the Bingham Hotel was followed by the actual meeting of the couple there we would have a different situation here," declared Judge Berger.

"But we have testimony only to the fact that the letter was received, and that the couple were not together. One of these was at the midnight hour at St. Nicholas."

"Must a man always be tied to his wife's apron strings?" said Attorney A. D. Knittle in pleading with the court for a dismissal of the case. "Certainly it is not a crime to take a pretty woman on a trip. This trip, the actual trip, arises above the level of common gossip."

Kurtz Admits Meeting
Prior to the dismissal of the suit, Michael Kurtz, husband of the plaintiff, was on the witness stand for the second time. He caused a sensation when he admitted meeting the defendant on Railroad street, Mahanoy City. He said that Mrs. Stankiewicz drove the letter of paper on the street. "When he picked it up, this proved to be a note asking him to meet her on Railroad street," he testified.

Kurtz's testimony was not given as reluctantly as that of yesterday when he gave testimony of little value to connect Mrs. Stankiewicz with the letter. He repeated the story to the questions propounded by M. J. Ryan, attorney for his wife.

Much testimony as to the actions of Kurtz since Mrs. Stankiewicz came into his life were ruled out by Judge Berger. Those questions as to Kurtz remaining from home at long intervals since the period of alleged "ramping" began must be definite, said Judge Berger. "Otherwise every man who wished to go out of town would be under suspicion," he said.

George Kurtz, brother of the plaintiff, testified that he saw Michael Kurtz on the night of January 21 meet Mrs. Stankiewicz on Railroad street, Mahanoy City. He said that he saw her enter the car and get into it, and that he saw her leave it.

The witness said he told his brother to go home and remember he had a wife and children.

'BEEN' IS 'BIN,' NOT 'BEAN'
So Wellaley Professor of Reading and Speaking Tells Students

Wellaley, Mass., March 29.—"Been" is "bin," not "bean," according to Miss Malvina Bennett, professor of English at the Wellaley College. Miss Bennett told her students, in substance, that the bean is a vegetable and not a verb. She advised her class to follow the accepted forms of speech, as used in everyday American life, rather than attempt to copy the standards of London's West End.

She does wage ranting war on the bean, she maintains, is responsible for the fatness of the average man's speech.

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"Are of most extreme interest to me;
Both the common and rare
Are deserving of care."
(He must "scratch for a living,"
"bee" gee!)

Jingle Box Winners Wanted. Ten Dollars Apiece Paid. Third Page From the Last

Another Hope Chest Hundred
The young man herewith presented works in a bank and intends to get married. After working in a bank nine years he should know better, but this is a savings bank, so perhaps he only sees the silver lining of a cloud rather common to the blue skies of those who once were free. He thinks he gets the hundred. He does, temporarily. After that, the landlord!

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